



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

S. N. D. NORTH, DIRECTOR

—  
BULLETIN 8  
—

NEGROES  
IN THE UNITED STATES



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1904

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

	Page.
Maps and diagrams (list) .....	8
Letter of transmittal .....	9
<b>THE NEGRO POPULATION</b> .....	11-68
Summary of results .....	11-14
Nature and accuracy of returns .....	14-17
Definition .....	14, 15
Accuracy of returns .....	15
Mulattoes .....	15-17
Distribution and proportion of negroes .....	17-29
Continental United States .....	17-19
States and territories .....	19, 20
Counties .....	20-23
Physiographic divisions .....	23, 24
Center and median points of negro population .....	24-26
City and country .....	26-29
Increase of negroes .....	29-33
Continental United States .....	29, 30
Main geographic divisions .....	30, 31
City and country .....	32, 33
Sex .....	34, 35
Continental United States .....	34
City and country .....	34, 35
Age .....	35-39
Differences in figures for 1890 .....	35
Nature of inquiry .....	35, 36
Accuracy of returns .....	36-38
Median age .....	38, 39
Birthplace .....	39-41
Distribution of negroes born in the South Atlantic and South Central divisions .....	39-41
Illiteracy .....	41-46
Nature of inquiry .....	41
Accuracy of returns .....	41
Continental United States .....	41, 42
States and territories .....	42
Counties .....	42
City and country .....	42-44
Sex .....	44, 45
Age .....	45, 46
Conjugal condition .....	46-52
Nature of inquiry .....	46, 47
Total population .....	47
Adult population .....	47, 48
Sex .....	48-50
Sex and age .....	50-52
Breadwinners .....	52-57
Nature of inquiry .....	52, 53
Total number .....	53, 54
Sex .....	54, 55
Age .....	55, 56
Conjugal condition .....	56, 57
Leading occupations .....	57-64
Distribution by occupations .....	57, 58
Servants and waiters .....	58, 59
Launderers and laundresses .....	59
Draymen, hackmen, teamsters, etc .....	59
Steam railroad employees .....	59, 60
Miners and quarrymen .....	60
Saw and planing mill employees .....	60

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

THE NEGRO POPULATION—Continued.	
Leading occupations—Continued.	Page.
Porters and helpers (in stores, etc.) .....	60
Teachers and professors in colleges .....	60, 61
Carpenters and joiners .....	61
Turpentine farmers and laborers .....	61
Barbers and hairdressers .....	61
Nurses and midwives .....	61
Clergymen .....	61, 62
Tobacco and cigar factory operatives .....	62
Hostlers .....	62
Masons (brick and stone) .....	62
Dressmakers .....	62
Iron and steel workers .....	62, 63
Seamstresses .....	63
Janitors and sextons .....	63
Housekeepers and stewards .....	63
Fishermen and oystermen .....	63
Engineers and firemen (not locomotive) .....	63
Blacksmiths .....	63, 64
Vital statistics .....	64-68
Nature of inquiry .....	64
Death rate .....	64
Death rate by sex .....	64, 65
Death rate by age .....	65, 66
Ratio of children to women .....	66-68
THE NEGRO FARMER .....	69-98
Farms operated by negroes .....	69-78
General statistics .....	69, 70
Number and acreage of farms, by geographic divisions .....	70
Number and acreage of farms, by states .....	70, 71
Farms classified by area .....	71
Value of farm property .....	71, 72
The farm home .....	72, 73
The farm equipment .....	73
Live stock on farms .....	73, 74
Value of farm products .....	74, 75
Farms classified by value of products .....	75
Crops .....	75, 76
Farms classified by principal source of income .....	76, 77
Expenditures for labor and fertilizers .....	77, 78
Geographic distribution .....	78
The negro tenant .....	78-81
Classification of farms by tenure .....	78, 79
Conditions under slavery .....	79
Effect of the Civil War .....	79, 80
The share tenant system .....	80
The crop-lien system .....	80, 81
Present economic conditions .....	81
The negro farm owner .....	81-84
Proportion of owned farms .....	81, 82
Total acreage and value of owned farms .....	82, 83
Owned and rented land in farms of owners .....	83, 84
Value of farm property owned by negroes .....	84
Products and expenditures on owned farms .....	84
Farm statistics by tenure .....	84-90
Farms of colored farmers classified by tenure .....	84, 85
Farm acreage by tenure .....	85-87
Value of farm property by tenure .....	87, 88
Value of farm products by tenure .....	88, 89
General conclusions .....	89, 90
The relative importance of the negro in agriculture .....	90-95
Proportion of the total farm acreage and total farm values in farms operated by negroes .....	90, 91
Proportion of classified farms operated by negroes .....	91, 92
Proportion of farm animals and crops on farms operated by negroes .....	92, 93
Comparison of averages for white and for negro farmers .....	93, 94
Ratio of value of products to value of farm property .....	94, 95
Farm ownership and the farming black belt .....	95-98

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

5

## GENERAL TABLES.

	Page.
Table 1.—Total population, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1790 to 1900 .....	101
Table 2.—White and negro population, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1790 to 1900 .....	102, 103
Table 3.—Number and percentage of increase in white and negro population, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1790 to 1900 .....	104-108
Table 4.—Percentage of white and negro of total population, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1790 to 1900 ...	109, 110
Table 5.—Relative proportion of negroes to whites, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1790 to 1900 .....	111
Table 6.—Negro population, classified by sex and general nativity, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	112
Table 7.—Negro population, classified by sex, general nativity, and parentage, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	113, 114
Table 8.—Native negro population, distributed according to state or territory of birth, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	115-119
Table 9.—Ages by periods of years of the negro population classified by sex, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	120, 121
Table 10.—Ages of the negro population classified by sex, by states and territories arranged alphabetically: 1900 .....	122-135
Table 11.—Negro persons of school, militia, and voting ages, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	136
Table 12.—Negro persons attending school during the census year, classified by sex and age periods, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	137, 138
Table 13.—Negro persons attending school during the census year, classified by sex, age periods, and months of school attendance, by geographic divisions and by states and territories arranged alphabetically: 1900 .....	139-143
Table 14.—Number and percentage of negro persons attending school of total negro persons 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 15 to 20 years of age, respectively, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	144
Table 15.—Illiterate negro population 10 years of age and over, classified by sex and degree of illiteracy, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	145
Table 16.—Illiterate negro population 10 years of age and over, classified by sex and age periods, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	146, 147
Table 17.—Number and percentage of illiterate negro population 10 years of age and over classified by sex, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1890 and 1900 .....	148, 149
Table 18.—Number and percentage of illiterate negro population 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 years of age, respectively, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1890 and 1900 .....	150
Table 19.—Conjugal condition of the negro population classified by sex, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	151
Table 20.—Conjugal condition of the negro population classified by sex and age periods, by geographic divisions and by states and territories arranged alphabetically: 1900 .....	152-163
Table 21.—Negro persons 10 years of age and over engaged in each of 140 groups of occupations, classified by sex, for the United States: 1900 .....	164, 165
Table 22.—Negro persons 10 years of age and over engaged in each of 140 groups of occupations, classified by sex and age periods, for continental United States: 1900 .....	166-169
Table 23.—Negro persons 10 to 15 years of age engaged in each of 140 groups of occupations, classified by sex and year of age, for continental United States: 1900 .....	170, 171
Table 24.—Negro persons 10 years of age and over engaged in each of 140 groups of occupations, classified by sex and conjugal condition, for continental United States: 1900 .....	172, 173
Table 25.—Negro persons 10 years of age and over engaged in each of 140 groups of occupations who were unemployed during some portion of the census year, classified by sex and months unemployed, for continental United States: 1900 .....	174, 175
Table 26.—Negro persons 10 years of age and over engaged in selected groups of occupations, classified by sex, by geographic divisions and by states and territories arranged alphabetically: 1900 .....	176-187
Table 27.—Number of negro families occupying owned and hired homes, and owned homes distinguished as free and encumbered, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	188, 189
Table 28.—Percentage of negro families occupying owned and hired homes, and owned homes distinguished as free and encumbered, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900 .....	190
Table 29.—Total and negro population in 1900, 1890, and 1880, and negro population in 1900 distributed according to school, militia, and voting ages, and illiteracy, by counties .....	191-229
Table 30.—Total and negro population in 1900, 1890, and 1880, and negro population in 1900 distributed according to school, militia, and voting ages, and illiteracy, for cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1900 .....	230-232
Table 31.—Ages by periods of years of the negro population classified by sex, for cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more: 1900 .....	233-236
Table 32.—Negro persons attending school during the census year, classified by sex and age periods, for cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more: 1900 .....	237, 238
Table 33.—Conjugal condition of the negro population classified by sex, for cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more: 1900 .....	239, 240
Table 34.—Total population and negro population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1900 .....	241
Table 35.—Total population and negro population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1890 .....	242
Table 36.—Total population and negro population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1880 .....	243
Table 37.—Per cent negro in the population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts, and per cent distribution of the negro population by class of place of residence: 1900 .....	244

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.
Table 38.—Per cent negro in the population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts, and per cent distribution of the negro population by class of place of residence: 1890.....	245
Table 39.—Per cent negro in the population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts, and per cent distribution of the negro population by class of place of residence: 1880.....	246
Table 40.—Negro population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts, classified by sex: 1900.....	247
Table 41.—Negro, Indian, and Mongolian population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts, classified by sex: 1890.....	248
Table 42.—Per cent male and female in the negro population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1900.....	249
Table 43.—Per cent male and female in the negro, Indian, and Mongolian population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1890.....	250
Table 44.—Per 10,000 distribution of the negro population by age periods: 1900.....	251
Table 45.—Per 10,000 distribution of the negro male population by age periods: 1900.....	252
Table 46.—Per 10,000 distribution of the negro female population by age periods: 1900.....	253
Table 47.—Native negro population classified as born within or born without state or territory of residence: 1900.....	254
Table 48.—Per 10,000 distribution of the negro population born in each state and territory by state or territory of residence: 1900..	255-260
Table 49.—Per 10,000 distribution of the native negro population of each state and territory by state or territory of birth: 1900..	261-265
Table 50.—Per cent distribution of the negro population attending school by months of attendance: 1900.....	266
Table 51.—Per cent of the negro population 10 to 14 years of age, attending school specified number of months: 1900.....	267
Table 52.—Number and per cent illiterate in negro population at least 10 years of age and among negro males of voting age: 1900.....	268
Table 53.—Per cent negro in total population, 1900, 1890, and 1880, per cent male and female in negro population, per cent illiterate in negro population at least 10 years of age and among negro males of voting age, and per 10,000 distribution of negro population by age periods.....	269-271
Table 54.—Statistics of the negro population for cities having 2,500 to 25,000 inhabitants in 1900.....	272-278
Table 55.—Per cent negro in total population, 1900, 1890, and 1880, per cent male and female in negro population, and per cent illiterate in negro population at least 10 years of age and among males of voting age.....	279-289
Table 56.—Negro population, number of mulattoes, and per cent mulatto in total negro population: 1890, 1870, 1860, and 1850..	290
Table 57.—Number of children under 5 years of age and number of females 15 to 44 years of age, for the negro, Indian, and Mongolian population: 1900, 1890, and 1880.....	291
Table 58.—Number of children under 5 years of age and number of females 15 to 44 years of age for the negro, Indian, and Mongolian population: 1900 and 1890.....	292
Table 59.—Number of children under 5 years of age and number of females 15 to 44 years of age for the negro, Indian, and Mongolian population: 1900 and 1890.....	293, 294
Table 60.—Number and acreage of farms operated by negroes, value of specified classes of farm property, June 1, 1900, with value of products of 1899, and expenditures in 1899 for labor and fertilizers, with averages, by states and territories arranged geographically.....	296, 297
Table 61.—Number of farms operated by negroes, classified by tenure, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900..	298
Table 62.—Number of farms operated by negroes, classified by area in acres, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900.....	299
Table 63.—Number of farms operated by negroes, classified by value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900.....	300
Table 64.—Number of farms operated by negroes, classified by principal source of income in 1899, by states and territories arranged geographically: 1900.....	301
Table 65.—Number and total value of specified domestic animals, and values of poultry and bees, June 1, 1900, on farms operated by negroes, by states and territories arranged geographically.....	302, 303
Table 66.—Number of farms operated by negroes reporting cereals, June 1, 1900, with acreage and production of each cereal in 1899, by states and territories arranged geographically.....	304, 305
Table 67.—Number of farms operated by negroes reporting hay, potatoes, and sweet potatoes, June 1, 1900, with the acreage and production of each crop in 1899, by states and territories arranged geographically.....	306
Table 68.—Number of farms operated by negroes reporting cotton and tobacco, June 1, 1900, with the acreage and production of each crop in 1899, by states and territories arranged geographically.....	307
Table 69.—Classification by tenure, for farms of all negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers, of the number and acreage of farms, value of specified classes of farm property, value of products, and expenditures for labor and fertilizers, with averages, for main and minor geographic divisions, and for each of the Southern states.....	308-315
Table 70.—Number and total value of specified domestic animals, and values of poultry and bees, June 1, 1900, on farms of all negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified by tenure, for main and minor geographic divisions and for each of the Southern states.....	316-323
Table 71.—Per cent of the total number of farms operated by negro farmers in each class as determined by tenure, by value of products not fed to live stock, by principal source of income, and by area, for continental United States by geographic divisions and for the two Southern divisions by states and territories: 1900.....	324, 325
Table 72.—Number of farms, total acreage, improved acreage, and value of farm property for all farms and for farms operated by negroes, with the per cent of the totals comprised in farms operated by negroes, for continental United States by geographic divisions and for the Southern divisions by states and territories: 1900.....	326
Table 73.—Value of specified classes of farm property for all farms and for farms operated by negroes, with the per cent of the totals comprised in farms operated by negroes, for continental United States by geographic divisions and for the Southern divisions by states and territories: 1900.....	327

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.
Table 74.—Value of products, value of products not fed to live stock, and expenditures for labor and for fertilizers, for all farms and for farms operated by negroes, with the per cent of the totals comprised in farms operated by negroes, for continental United States by geographic divisions and for the Southern divisions by states and territories: 1900....	328
Table 75.—Total number of farms and number operated by negroes in each class of farms as determined by tenure, area, value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock, and principal source of income, with the per cent which the number of farms operated by negroes in each class form of the total number in that class, for continental United States and for each geographic division: 1900 .....	329
Table 76.—Number of specified domestic animals on all farms and on farms operated by negroes with per cent on farms operated by negroes, for continental United States and for each geographic division: 1900.....	330
Table 77.—Production, in 1899, of specified crops on farms operated by negroes compared with the production on all farms, for continental United States and for the South Atlantic and South Central divisions: 1900 .....	330
Table 78.—Average acreage per farm, average value of farm property and farm products, and average expenditures for farms of negro and of white farmers, by states and territories: 1900 .....	332, 333

## MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

---

	Page.
Map 1.—Proportion of negro to total population of the United States at the Twelfth Census: 1900.....	Frontispiece.
Map 2.—Main and minor geographic divisions of continental United States.....	18
Diagram 1.—Negro population of each state and territory having at least 10,000 negroes: 1900.....	20
Map 3.—Counties having at least 50 per cent negro in total population: 1860.....	21
Map 4.—Counties having at least 50 per cent negro in total population: 1880.....	22
Map 5.—Counties having at least 50 per cent negro in total population: 1900.....	22
Map 6.—Counties having at least 75 per cent negro in total population: 1900.....	23
Map 7.—Center of negro population of continental United States, 1900, 1890, 1880, and 1790; and center of negro and of white population of the South, 1900, 1890, and 1880.....	25
Map 8.—Counties having a higher per cent negro in total population in 1900 than in 1880 and having at least 1,000 negroes in 1900.....	31
Diagram 2.—Number of negroes reported at each year of age: 1900.....	36
Diagram 3.—Per cent illiterate in negro population at least 10 years of age: 1900 and 1890.....	43
Map 9.—Southern counties in which the farms operated by negroes in 1900 constituted at least 50 per cent of all farms.....	96
Map 10.—Southern counties in which farms owned and operated by negroes in 1900 constituted at least 50 per cent of all farms operated by negroes.....	96
Map 11.—Southern counties in which there were at least 300 farms owned and operated by negroes in 1900.....	97

# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,  
*Washington, D. C., June 1, 1904.*

SIR:

I have the honor to submit Bulletin 8 of the Bureau of the Census entitled "Negroes in the United States."

Requests for information upon the subject of this bulletin are frequently received by the Bureau. It is impossible to supply each inquirer with the seven quarto volumes of the Twelfth Census, through which tables on this subject are scattered. The summary tables in the Abstract of the Twelfth Census are not extended enough to meet the want, and as published, without any explanation or interpretation, might in some cases be meaningless or misleading to persons unfamiliar with census methods or inexpert with figures. To meet the call thus made upon it the Bureau of the Census has brought together with substantial completeness in the present bulletin, the information it has gathered regarding the American negro, and has prepared an introductory analysis pointing out what the figures are thought by the Bureau to mean and not to mean. Certain tables containing statistics of minor importance have not been reproduced, because their inclusion would have increased the size of the bulletin so much as to impair its value as a convenient source of reference.

In the introductory analysis, figures for the whites in the entire country or in the Southern states have been included whenever the comparison thus made possible seemed to bring out more clearly the meaning of the statistics regarding the present conditions or the recent changes of the negro population. But in the general tables extended information about the whites could not be introduced without omitting more relevant matter to make a place for it. In analyzing the figures on occupations much use has been made of the Special Report on Occupations. No analysis for small areas like individual states or cities could be undertaken within the limit of such a publication and no effort has been made to carry the interpretation into smaller geographic divisions than continental United States or the Southern states as a whole.

The primary tables presented in this bulletin were prepared under the supervision of Mr. W. C. Hunt, chief statistician. They comprise Tables 1 to 33, relating to population, and Tables 60 to 70, relating to agriculture. These tables are for the most part reproductions or adaptations of tables published at the Twelfth Census. Tables 34 to 59, which are now published for the first time, are supplementary and derived tables prepared under the supervision of Professor W. F. Willcox, of Cornell University, special agent of the Census Bureau. Professor Willcox has also written the introductory analysis upon population and vital statistics. The section on the negro farmer was prepared by W. E. B. Du Bois, Ph. D., professor of economics and history in Atlanta University.

Very respectfully,



*S. D. Tork*  
Director.

Hon. GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,  
*Secretary of Commerce and Labor*